

to them by their employers is very important, and trying to strengthen the funding rules over these plans is critically important.

I can tell you that there are some issues that we are hung up on. We have had a lot of conversations. We are continuing to have conversations. I am a little more optimistic today than I was yesterday, but we are not there yet. There are Democrat Members who have been involved in at least informal conversations on both sides of the Capitol with regard to how we would proceed, but no timeline yet.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for those comments.

As you recall when we discussed this matter, it is still my understanding that the Democratic conferees have yet to be really engaged in the conference proceedings. You and I had a discussion on that, and I would hope that that might happen.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. Most of the Republican conferees have yet to sit down at the table as well. The principals have been involved and the leadership on both sides have been involved, and as I said, there have been a lot of informal conversations with Democrat Members on both sides of the Capitol.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, you indicate that the leadership on both sides of the aisle have been involved.

Mr. BOEHNER. I said Democrat Members have been involved on both sides of the Capitol.

Mr. HOYER. I mean the leadership of the committees is what I was talking about.

Mr. BOEHNER. The leadership on the Senate side and the House side have been engaged in this as well.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the comments and would hope that is the case, and we will talk to our leaders on that so that we can both, working together, move this bill forward.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006 AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate; and further, when the House adjourns on that day,

it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REMOVING MEMBER FROM COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 872) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 872

Resolved, That Mr. Jefferson is hereby removed from the Committee on Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the resolution?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1130

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION BOARD OF ADVISORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors for a term of 2 years.

Mr. Thomas A. Fuentes, Lake Forest, California.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 39 months since our troops were sent to Iraq; and today, more than 37 months after the President declared

their mission accomplished, they are still there, still fighting a guerrilla war for which they weren't properly trained or equipped, still paying for the tragic blunders of their civilian superiors, and still risking life and limb because of a security threat that never even existed.

If American troops are still in Iraq at year's end, and, unfortunately, it appears they might be, we will have been in Iraq longer than these soldiers' grandfathers fought in World War II. The difference is that that was a much different war, with a clearer objective, a national consensus, a moral core, and a just cause.

Not only has Iraq not made us safer; it has actually harmed our national security, making the United States an international pariah, provoking the range of anti-American jihadists around the Muslim world, and stoking the fires of an insurgency that gets stronger every day, every day that we are in Iraq.

And that doesn't even take into account the staggering human cost, the 2,500th American soldier killed just yesterday, more than 1,800 soldiers gravely wounded, thousands of others mentally and physically traumatized by their combat experience, not to mention the countless tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians who died for the cause of their own so-called liberation.

Mr. Speaker, the sham resolution that the Republicans in Congress brought to the floor yesterday and that we voted on just a few minutes ago is yet another partisan divisive attempt to stay the course and to link support for this war to support for our troops.

We could have debated particulars of a military disengagement. We could have a substantive discussion that results in an actual change in the Nation's Iraq policy. Instead, we did nothing more than a little Kabuki dance that at the end of the day won't change a single thing except to prove that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing to distort the facts and use the war and our troops for politics.

There is nothing inconsistent about having the deepest contempt for the war, but the utmost admiration for the soldiers on the front lines. Last fall, I traveled to Iraq and visited with our troops. My conversations with them only confirmed what I already knew, that these are uniquely loyal, intelligent, and courageous Americans. They represent the very finest our country has to offer, and they deserve our unyielding gratitude every hour of every day.

If only they had civilian leaders who were worthy of their service and their sacrifice. If only the people who are running this war had half the honor, half the integrity of the men and women who are fighting it. It is because I support the troops that I have advocated so passionately for their return home. And we can do that, and we can do it without abandoning Iraq.

We must establish a multilateral security force to keep the peace in Iraq

while shifting the U.S. role from military occupier to reconstruction partner. This is what the American people want, Mr. Speaker. They want to help Iraq rebuild and become a free democratic society, but they want it done without another drop of American bloodshed. They want their sons and daughters, they want their mothers and fathers, their brothers and sisters, their friends and neighbors back home where they belong.

What we need now is action from Washington, not platitudes and photo opportunities, not inconsequential resolutions that require lawmakers to risk absolutely nothing. The American people are looking to Washington. They are begging for leadership. It is time this Congress and the President of the United States provided some.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WAR ON TERROR

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, international terrorism is an issue of life and death, not just for each of us individually but for our Nation and our way of life.

We did not want this fight. We didn't invite this fight. We did not wish to engage in this battle. However, once our enemy crossed over the line and confirmed for us and the world that they were unwilling to respect international law, respect individual liberty, and respect the sovereignty of nations, and that they were willing and desirous of engaging in mortal battle, no other option was left to us or to the civilized world.

Abu Musab al Zarqawi, on January 23, 2005, said this: "We have declared a fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology." So this discussion over the past few days comes down to a fundamental question: What is the appropriate strategy and tactic to adopt to win the war on terror? Will we withdraw and simply defend a policy of isolation and containment, or will we aggressively combat terrorism and take the battle to our enemy?

Now, this war is unlike any other in history. Our enemy has no single home. It recruits and trains its army from nations around the world. The only unifying element is hate, hate for democracy and hate for liberty. Thankfully,

we have stayed the course. Thankfully, we have persevered in both Iraq and Afghanistan, because the greatest threat to terrorism is freedom and liberty and democracy in the Middle East and beyond.

And great progress is being made. Last week, the U.S. and Iraqi forces eliminated al Qaeda's top terrorist, Zarqawi. This was accomplished with excellent intelligence, and that information came from Iraqi citizens themselves. A very positive sign. And while Zarqawi was eliminated, finding him brought a wealth of information, allowing U.S. and Iraqi forces to dismantle many more pieces of al Qaeda's puzzle. And Iraq just this past week selected three more officials, cabinet ministers, to serve in its standing government. These are very positive accomplishments.

But it is also important for us to remember what led up to this war, and just a short look at a couple of the incidents over the last 30 years will bring it into focus and vividly demonstrate the death, destruction, and terror brought to Americans by our enemy.

The Iran hostage crisis in 1979, where our hostages were held for 444 days;

1983 suicide bomb attacks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 242 Americans;

1985, the *Achille Lauro* hijacking, where an invalid American was murdered in his wheelchair;

1988, Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people on board;

February 26, 1993, the first World Trade Center bombing;

1996, Khobar Towers bombing, U.S. Air Force barracks in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. military personnel;

1998, U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, killing over 300;

The year 2000, the USS *Cole* bombing, killing 17 U.S. sailors;

And then, September 11th.

Now, treating these incidents as crimes and not as acts of war, providing reactionary measures rather than moving proactively will not work. And how do we know? Because that is precisely what we did for decades, and the consequence was 9/11.

The campaign against the United States and its allies is ambitious, simple, and clear. Terrorists will stop at nothing to achieve their distorted sense of reality. We could have stayed out of this conflict. However, giving terrorists free rein would not make us any safer, and history has proven that. The price would be more innocent lives lost, more bombings, and not an ounce of peace. We must not be held hostage by terrorism. That is not living in liberty and freedom.

There are defining moments for every generation. And for this generation that defining moment is how we engage in this war on terror, highlighted by a very different post-9/11 world. When we came to that defining moment, to that tragic day, we, as a Nation, with our allies around the world, decided we would not allow terrorists to win.

Mr. Speaker, freedom isn't free. The choice is clear, our resolve is clear: we must and we will prevail.

REPORT ON H.R. 5631, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-504) on the bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I call upon the President of the United States to present a plan to Congress to start bringing our troops home from Iraq.

It has been almost 4 years since the President came to Congress and sought the use of force in Iraq. At that time, Mr. Speaker, I voted against giving the President the use of force. It was not a popular vote in my congressional district, but it was the right vote. I was proud of my vote 4 years ago, and I am proud of my vote today.

□ 1145

I have remained an outspoken critic of the President's policies in Iraq. There was no connection between Iraq and the attack on our country on September 11. There was no evidence of any weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons, and other weapons information was distorted. There was no direct threat against the United States.

We have paid a heavy price for the war in Iraq. Over 2,400 soldiers have died, 18,000 have been injured, and we have spent \$300 billion-plus of taxpayer money.

Our international standing has suffered. In December 2004, I visited the troops in Iraq. I wanted to see firsthand what was happening in Baghdad. My experiences I will not soon forget. I thanked our soldiers for their service to our country. They deserve to come home to their families and a grateful Nation.